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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 003880

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/RPM (WARLICK/HOLTZ/PROSEN) AND USOSCE  
(SCOTT/CONNUCK/SLOTTA)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/24/2015

TAGS: [ABUD](#) [AFIN](#) [PREL](#) [EU](#) [PGOV](#) [IT](#) [OSCE](#)

SUBJECT: OSCE: ITALIANS FLEXIBLE ON BUDGET ISSUES, SEEKING  
MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

REF: STATE 211137

Classified By: Classified by David D. Pearce, Political Minister Counse  
lor, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel points to Brunelle Borzi, Director of the OSCE office of the Italian MFA, on November 123. Borzi stated that the Italians were open to USG proposals on the OSCE budget mechanism and were willing to be flexible on this issue in order prevent disruptions or distractions from the OSCE mission. A larger priority for the GOI, according to Borzi, was the need for a ministerial declaration this year. In her view, a ministerial declaration, particularly one that included language on the Istanbul Committee, was crucial to maintaining the organization's credibility. The GOI had already approached other EU countries about the need for a declaration and was willing to accept reference to the Istanbul Committee in regional declarations. She expressed hope that the USG would be flexible in negotiations in order to obtain consensus on such a declaration.

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